

Check on CIA

Cuban Fiasco Brings Demand For Joint Congress Committee

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WASHINGTON—The Cuban fiasco has produced demands for closer congressional supervision over the Central Intelligence Agency.

Sen. Eugene McCarthy (D-Minn.) said he is reintroducing his resolution calling for a joint congressional watchdog committee over the CIA.

"If there was a policy decision to overthrow the Cuban government, Congress had a constitutional and moral responsibility to be informed," McCarthy said.

OTHER KEY members of Congress also indicated concern over whether the CIA is a "riderless horse."

But Congressional leaders said they would hold their fire until the flurry over Cuba subsides.

"The time is too serious to engage in diversionary tactics of this sort," said Senate Democratic leader Mike Mansfield of Montana.

Senate Republican leader Everett Dirksen of Illinois agreed.

THERE WERE indications on both sides of Capitol Hill, however, that the question of congressional control over CIA will be examined later.

"There is not enough screening of the activities and the expenditures of the CIA by the elected representatives of the people," said Rep. Robert Sikes (D-Fla.), a veteran member of the House Appropriations Committee.

Some sources have laid the administration's embarrassment over failure of the anti-Castro expedition to faulty intelligence work by the CIA.

THE HOOVER Commission in 1955 recommended after a study that Congress consider

establishing a joint committee to oversee the CIA. It pointed out that a similar joint committee supervises the secret Atomic Energy Commission.

McCarthy, Mansfield, Sikes and others sought to establish such a committee but ran into opposition from the Eisenhower administration and the CIA itself.

Mansfield's resolution was defeated 27 to 59 in the Senate on April 11, 1956. Eight of the co-sponsors of the resolution switched sides and voted against it.

Among the sponsors was Sen. John F. Kennedy. The future president stuck with the plan on the vote.

A TOTAL of 22 members of Congress on four secret subcommittees now share the responsibility for auditing CIA activities.

Last year, according to CIA officials, the agency appeared a total of four times before these various groups to inform them formally of CIA activities. This year so far there have been five such appearances.

In addition, agency officials appeared 14 other times before other congressional units last year, principally the Foreign Relations committees, according to the CIA.